

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5972

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS LONDON 15418

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (ROCKEFELLER, NELSON)

SUBJECT: VICE PRESIDENTIAL VISIT: PRESS Q'S AND A'S

REFERENCE: LONDON 15037 C

1. AT HIS BACKGROUND LUNCH FOR SENIOR EDITORS, OCT 4, AND HIS PRESS CONFERENCE, OCT 5, THE VICE-PRESIDENT MAY GET QUESTIONS SUCH AS THOSE LISTED BELOW ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES AND BRITISH INTERNAL MATTERS (SUGGESTED ANSWERS PROVIDED).

2. INFORMED QUESTIONS ON SOUTHERN AFRICA ARE EXPECTED AND ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD BE MADE TO KEEP THE VICE-PRESIDENT FULLY INFORMED ABOUT THE STATE OF PLAY AND U.S. PUBLIC POSITIONS ON ALL ASPECTS OF THE SITUATION AS THESE DEVELOP.

3. WE THINK IT LIKELY THAT THE VICE-PRESIDENT WILL BE QUESTIONED AT LENGTH ON U.S. DOMESTIC POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES. WE HAVE NOT ATTEMPTED TO FORMULATE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON THESE SUBJECTS.

BEGIN Q'S AND A'S

Q. GIVEN GOVERNOR CARTER'S RECENT ADVERSE COMMENTS ABOUT
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THE HELSINKI ACCORDS AND GOVERNOR REAGAN'S ATTACKS ON

DETENTE THROUGHOUT THE PRIMARIES, ARE WE LIKELY TO SEE A HARDER U.S. LINE VIS A VIS THE SOVIET UNION?

A. FROM OUR SIDE, THE BASIS OF U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS IS DETERMINED BY THE REQUIREMENTS OF U.S. SELF-INTEREST AND NOT BY THE VICISSITUDES OF THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN. WE CONTINUE TO SEE IT AS IMPORTANT TO MAKE EFFORTS TO DEAL WITH THE OUTSTANDING ISSUES BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE SOVIET UNION. WE CONTINUE TO APPROACH THIS TASK WITH REALISM AND WITH AN APPRECIATION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF NEGOTIATING FROM STRENGTH.

Q. GIVEN THE CONTINUED SLOW EROSION OF THE OVERALL BRITISH ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL POSITION, WILL THE U.S. CONTINUE TO LEND ITS SUPPORT IF BRITAIN APPLIES TO THE IMF FOR A NEW LOAN TO SHORE UP THE POUND?

A. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS FOLLOWING A SOUND STRATEGY IN SEEKING TO COMBAT INFLATION AND TO REDUCE THE DEFICIT. WE WISH THEM WELL IN THESE EFFORTS. I REALLY CAN'T COMMENT ON THE LATTER PART OF YOUR QUESTION SINCE IT DEALS WITH A PURELY HYPOTHETICAL, FUTURE SITUATION.

Q. THE RELATIONS AMONG RACES IN BRITAIN SEEM STEADILY TO BE WORSENING. THE U.S. HAS HAD A LOT OF EXPERIENCE WITH THIS PROBLEM. DO YOU HAVE ANY ADVICE TO OFFER?

A. IN ALL HONESTY, I DO NOT KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT THE DETAILS OF THE RACE RELATIONS PROBLEMS WITHIN BRITAIN TO OFFER A COMMENT. EVEN IF I DID, I DO NOT THINK I WOULD MAKE A COMMENT BECAUSE THESE ARE INTERNAL BRITISH PROBLEMS AND, THEREFORE, NOT APPROPRIATE FOR ME TO COMMENT ABOUT.

Q. DOES THE U.S. HAVE ANY NEW INITIATIVES IN MIND IN DEALING WITH THE TRAFFIC IN ARMS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND NORTHERN IRELAND?

A. WE CONTINUE TO DEAL WITH CRIMINAL ACTS UNDER U.S. LAW THROUGH PROSECUTION AND WE CONTINUE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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ALL CONCERNED RESPONSIBLE ELEMENTS IN DEALING WITH ALL OTHER ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEM.

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